Regional development in Madhya Pradesh

†791. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government policies are responsible to a large extent for the developmental imbalance and backwardness among the States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that State of Madhya Pradesh which is enriched with natural resources has been deprived of thousands of crores of rupees annually under various Heads such as outstanding coal royalty, compensation of non-exploitation of forest property, etc. because of erroneous policies; and

(c) if so, by when Government would contemplate to ensure regional development of Madhya Pradesh and release the said outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The issue of payment of coal royalty and compensation for non-exploitation of forest property are matters of national policy, and no State, including Madhya Pradesh, is deprived of benefits where applicable as per these policies.

(c) Development of a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Government of India is committed to assisting the efforts of the States for balanced regional development, and is providing assistance under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana for development of the backward districts of the States. Ten districts of Madhya Pradesh have been identified under this programme and each identified district is eligible to receive Rs. 15 crore per year for three years as additional development funding.

Economic reforms

†792. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make any concrete system so that the benefits of economic reforms should reach the common man;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.